

DYNAMICALLY MODIFYING FUNCTIONALITY IN A  
CONFIGURABLE COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL STACK

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 In one embodiment of the present invention, a method for dynamically  
modifying functionality in a configurable communications protocol stack includes, at  
an interface device, operating a protocol stack that includes existing protocol stack  
software operable to process events associated with connections initiated subsequent  
to the existing protocol stack software being activated for new connections. The  
10 method also includes communicating new protocol stack software from a system  
controller to the interface device, which may be connected to multiple telephony  
resources, for purposes of modifying the existing protocol stack software operating on  
the interface device. At the interface device, new protocol stack software is received  
from the system controller and is operable to process events associated with  
15 connections initiated subsequent to the new protocol stack software being activated  
for new connections. The existing protocol stack software continues to process all  
events associated with connections initiated before the new protocol stack software  
was activated, and the new protocol stack software processes all events associated  
with connections initiated after the new protocol stack software was activated. The  
20 existing protocol stack software, upon completion of all connections initiated before  
the new protocol stack software was activated, is removed, services provided to the  
telephony resources being substantially uninterrupted by the modification.